

Appl. No. 09/982,481
Amdt. dated May 26, 2005
Reply to Office action of March 31, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Decision from the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, the Board stated that, with regard to claims 31 and 32, it was "not persuaded by the position set out in the Answer that Tabei suggests a variable width column, or determines 'a width of each of the columns, the width of some columns being different than the width of other columns.'" The Board, however, entered new grounds of rejection of claims 31 and 32 under 35 U.S.C § 112, first and second paragraphs. In this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 1-30, amend claims 31 and 32, and submit new claims 33-43.

Claim 31 has been amended to address the Board's § 112, second paragraph, concerns. The Board expressed some uncertainty as to whether the limitations in claim 31 complied with the written description requirement of § 112. Claim 31 requires, among other limitations, "determining a width of each of the columns, the width of some columns being different than the width of other columns." This limitation is supported by Applicants' disclosure at least by Figures 3a-3c and associated text and page 13, line 6 through page 15, line 13. Claim 31 also requires "assigning one record to each of said pixels in said columns." This limitation is supported by Applicants' disclosure at least by page 9, lines 13-14. Finally, claim 31 requires "applying a selectable color to all of the pixels in all of the columns according to an attribute of said records." This limitation is supported by Applicants' disclosure at least by Figure 2 (element 250) and page 15, line 15 through page 16, line 2 and page 11, lines 10-14. Thus, Applicants contend that all § 112 issues have been addressed. Also, at least for the reasons noted by the Board, claims 31-32 are allowable over the art of record.

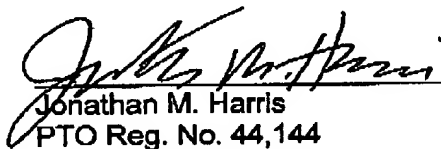
New independent method claim 36 requires, among other features, "determining a width of each of a plurality of columns on a display, the width of some columns being different than the width of other columns and each column comprising a plurality of pixels." New independent system 40 requires "determining a set of attributes selected from said plurality of attributes, said set of attributes for placement of said plurality of records in a graphically displayable array comprising a plurality of columns, at least one column being of a different

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width than at least one other column." At least for the reasons noted by the Board with regard to claim 31, claims 36-43 are allowable over the art of record.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Hewlett-Packard Development Company's Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,


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